

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 17, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. MY QUESTION HAS TO DO WITH THE FOREIGN ASSIST-
ANCE ACT. ONE SECTION OF IT WAS PASSED IN '66 AND AMENDED
IN '69.

IF I COULD JUST BRIEFLY QUOTE THIS ONE SENTENCE AND ASK A
QUESTION ON IT -- "NO CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE U.S. SHALL BE
MADE TO THE UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST, EXCEPT ON THE CONDITION THAT THE
UNRWA TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT NO PART OF
THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION SHALL BE USED TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE
TO ANY REFUGEE WHO IS RECEIVING MILITARY TRAINING AS A
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MEMBER OF THE SO-CALLED PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY OR ANY
OTHER GUERRILLA-TYPE ORGANIZATION WHO IS ENGAGED IN ANY

ACT OF TERRORISM."

AND MY QUESTION, SIR, IS THIS: CONSIDERING WHAT I UNDER-STAND IS AN APPROPRIATION -- ANNUAL APPROPRIATION -- IT'S BEEN ABOUT 23 OR -4 OR -5 MILLION DOLLARS, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE FIGURE EXACTLY.

Q. WELL, IT'S A SIZABLE SUM -- MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO UNRWA.

MY QUESTION IS: WHAT MEASURES HAS UNRWA ACTUALLY TAKEN IN THIS REGARD; AND WHAT HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT DONE TO VERIFY SUCH MEASURES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, THAT NONE OF THE MONEY IS GOING TO GO TO SUPPORT THESE GUERRILLA TYPE ORGANIZATIONS?

A. WELL, LET ME JUST SAY THIS ON THAT: I AM UNAWARE OF UNRWA NOT COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW. I KNOW OF NO PROBLEM HERE.

IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM THAT I CAN FIND OUT, I'LL LET YOU KNOW; BUT I'M UNAWARE OF ANY.

Q. YOU ARE UNAWARE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE REFUGEE CAMPS ALL OVER THE MIDDLE EAST THAT ARE BEING USED FOR THE TRAINING OF THESE GUERRILLA GROUPS -- RUN BY UNRWA?

A. WHAT I'M SAYING IS JUST WHAT I SAID A MINUTE AGO -- THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW THAT YOU CITED.

Q. WHAT EVIDENCE WOULD YOU NEED TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE?

A. I'LL JUST STAND ON THAT FOR NOW. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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